Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Bacolod City

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20
Series of 2020

AN ORDER SUSPENDING ALL CLASSES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, IN ALL LEVELS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THEREBY REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 14 AND 15, SERIES OF 2020

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code states that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Executive Order No. 14, Series of 2020 was issued ordering the closure of pre-school, primary, and secondary levels (public schools) on March 20, 2020; and that of tertiary and graduate levels in all public schools in the City of Bacolod on March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, the undersigned also issued Executive Order No. 15, Series of 2020 on even date ordering the closing of classes in all levels for all private schools on March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, the following day, March 12, 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte approved the recommendation of the Inter-agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases, thus, upgrading the Code Alert System for Covid-19 to Code Red Sublevel 2 and placing Metro Manila under "community quarantine";

WHEREAS, the 30-day community quarantine in Metro Manila, which will commence from March 15 until April 14, 2020, has caused many Bacolodnons to rush home before aforesaid "community quarantine" in Metro Manila took effect;

WHEREAS, such a "community quarantine" in Metro Manila may have also prodded other non-residents to take refuge in cities and municipalities like Bacolod City, which have yet no record of local transmissions;

WHEREAS, as a result, the City Government of Bacolod issued Executive Order No. 19, Series of 2020, which declares, among others, that persons coming from Metro Manila, from other areas with local transmission, or from abroad, and who show no symptoms of infection by COVID-19, to be Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs), and should undergo home quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time they arrive in Bacolod City;

WHEREAS, the same Executive Order No. 19 also provides that family and household members of the PUMs are obligated to observe social distancing; restrict local travel especially to places where many people loiter or congregate; avoid crowded places; practice personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation, cough etiquette; eat properly cooked and healthy food; drink plenty of water; and practice a healthy lifestyle;

WHEREAS, there now arises a heightened threat to the health and well-being of students from an increased population of PUMs in Bacolod City, which requires a more stringent form of social distancing thru the temporary suspension of classes in all levels for both public and private schools in the City of Bacolod until further notice;

WHEREAS, the Negros Occidental Chapter of the Philippine Pediatric Society led by its President, Dr. Annilyn Bergante, M.D., has appealed to the Bacolod City Government on March 14, 2020 for the same emergency protection measure (immediate cancellation of classes at all levels for all public and private schools in Bacolod City) to reduce the risk of fast contagion of COVID-19 among our studentry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EVELIO R. LEONARDIA, by virtue of the power vested in me as City Mayor of Bacolod, do hereby order that:

Section 1. All classes in all levels, for both public and private schools, be suspended EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY until further notice;

Section 2. It is left to the sound discretion of school officials and/or school boards of directors, in accordance with WHO and DOH advisories, and after close consultation with and/or approval of the Department of Education or the Commission on Higher Education, to undertake certain strategies for the continued education of their students during this period of suspension.

Section 3. Executive Order Nos. 14 and 15, Series of 2020, both issued on March 11, 2020, are hereby repealed.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Bacolod this 14th day of March 2020.

ATTY. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
City Mayor